Collection of passport Applications through postal department

1274. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started collecting passport applications through Postal Department in the States to help the passport seekers; and

(b) if so, whether such arrangements have been made in the North-Eastern Region also particularly in Assam and how many such centres for collection of applications are working in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though, at present, this facility is not available in the North-Eastern Region, it has been decided to open ten such centres in the North-Eastern Region in the coming year.

Inquiry into intrusion of Bangladesh Rifles

1275. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the Government of Bangladesh on the findings of the inquiry into the unprovoked and unwarranted intrusion by Bangladesh Rifles Forces into Meghalaya and brutal and inhuman killing of BSF personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what action Government have taken to pursue the case further with Bangladesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has pursued the matter through diplomatic channels.

Outcome of U.N. meet on racism and racial discrimination

1276. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent UN meet on racism and racial discrimination etc., held in Durban failed to take note of the discrimination suffered by the